



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Corps of Engineers announces completion of Upper Trinity River Basin environmental document

The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has prepared a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing proposed activities to provide flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, recreation and other allied purposes within the Trinity River Basin, Trinity River, Texas.

The PEIS examines past actions of the Corps of Engineers and other entities within the study area, defines the baseline conditions within the basin, and then examines reasonably foreseeable alternatives of the Corps of Engineers and of others that might affect water and related land resources. During the course of the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study, approximately 90 preliminary potential projects addressing flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation were initially identified for further study within the study area. Of these, three Corps of Engineers projects that currently have local sponsorship are viewed as reasonably foreseeable. They are the Johnson Creek Project in Arlington, Texas, the Stemmons North Industrial Project in Dallas, Texas, and the Dallas Floodway Project in Dallas, Texas. Additionally, the Trinity Parkway, proposed by the Federal Highway Administration, North Texas Tollway Authority, and the City of Dallas, has the potential to significantly affect study area resources. All of the above referenced projects and their alternatives are evaluated in this PEIS in a cumulative manner using available data, assuming the authorized Dallas Floodway Extension project to be in place prior to any other project.

The Draft PEIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on December 17, 1999. Additionally, a public Notice of Availability was mailed to a list of known interested individuals on December 10, 1999 and a press release was issued to news media on December 17, 1999.

A public meeting to receive comments on the Draft PEIS was held on January 13, 2000. A total of 31 individuals at the meeting offered comments representing concerns on eight issues. The principal issue addressed was the proposal for a tollway to be located between the levees. Thirteen comments were received in

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favor of that location and six comments were received in opposition. Three speakers also spoke in opposition to all tollroads. Three people spoke in favor of the chain of lakes proposal contained within the City of Dallas' Trinity River Corridor Master Implementation Plan. One comment expressed opposition to any project that would result in a raise in flood levels in the Trinity River system. Four comments stated an opinion that the PEIS was insufficient and three statements were made that the PEIS did not adequately address cumulative impacts. Conversely, one comment was expressed that the PEIS addressed cumulative impacts well. Three requests were made at the public meeting for an extension of time to comment on the draft. Following similar telephone requests, the comment period was extended from Feb. 7, 2000, to Feb. 22, 2000.

Letters of comment were also received from 37 Federal, State, local agencies and groups, and individuals. Each letter of comment is published in Appendix D of the Final PEIS with appropriate responses to comments. Changes have been made in the text of the PEIS to clarify areas of concern and to correct errors where verifiable data were provided. The majority of the written comments focused on activities proposed along the Trinity River in the vicinity of Dallas.

The review period for the Final PEIS will extend 30 days from the date on which the Notice of Availability appears in the Federal Register, which is anticipated to be on or about June 23, 2000.

Copies of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement are available for review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 17300, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Copies have been distributed to the main libraries in Dallas, Arlington and Fort Worth, Texas. The main text of the Final PEIS is also available for review on the Fort Worth District Internet Home Page at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/>

For further information, contact Mr. Gene T. Rice, Jr., Project Manager, at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, CESWF-PM-C, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300 or call at (817) 978-2110.